(b) The complaints are related to irregularities in implementation of the schemes and charges of corruption against the implementing authorities.

(c) and (d) The complaints have been forwarded to the State Governments concerned for investigation and appropriate action as the schemes under the programme are being implemented by them.

Energy producing sectors

1877. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether recognizing the crucial role energy plays in propelling the economy into a higher growth path in the Eleventh Plan, the Planning Comission has underlined the need to assess the State of technology and the potentials to scale up efficiency in all energy producing public sector units;

(b) whether according to the Commission, technology upgradation in energy producing sector remains crucial for two specific reasons, one the availability and cost of energy would be a critical constraint on reaching our growth targets; and

(c) if so, to what extent Government has agreed to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, sir.

(c) In reply to the letter of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to all the Energy Ministries drawing their attention to the need to assess state of the technology in major energy producing public sector units under their control, different energy Ministries have asked respective public sector units to assess independently the level of technology with which they operate so that they upgrade and remain at the forefront of technology absorption and application in order to meet the goal of the Eleventh Plan and beyond.

Rise in number of poor people

1878. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eleventh Five Year Plan document has shown that in 5 States namely Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Uttrakhand and Orissa the number of poor people has been rising although overall poverty has reportedly fallen from 44 per cent to 27.5 per cent;

(b) whether in Orissa the poverty statistics for 1983 were 1.54 crore whereas in 2004 the figures show 1.78 crore and similarly in Maharashtra the rise is from 2.9 crore to 3.17 crore, etc;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps Government has taken so far to reduce number of poor people in above States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Eleventh Five Year Plan document has not been finalised.

(b) and (c) As per the estimates made by Planning Commission, the number of poor persons in Orissa is estimated as 1.81 crore in 1983 and 1.78 crore in 2004-05, and the number of poor persons in Maharashtra is estimated as 2.91 crore in 1983 and 3.17 crore in 2004-05. Therefore, the number of poor declined in Orissa and increased in Maharashtra during this period. Population growth is the principal reason behind the increase in the number of poor, since in Maharashtra, the poverty ratio i.e., the percentage of poor to the total population declined from 43.4 per cent in 1983 to 30.7 per cent in 2004-05.

(d) The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty: (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti-poverty programmes. A number of programmes/Schemes have been introduced by the Government from time to time to improve the condition of the people living below the poverty line in rural and urban areas, which are also implemented in the above States. These include (i) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), (ii) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), (iii) Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and (iv) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in the rural areas, and (i) Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and (ii) Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in the urban areas.

BPL people in Uttar Pradesh

†1879. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people living below the poverty line in the State of Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the number of families which have risen above the poverty line during the last three years; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The latest estimate of the incidence of poverty is available for the year 2004-05, based on the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in its NSS 61st Round (July 2004-June 2005). As per this, the number of persons living below the poverty line in Uttar Pradesh is 590.03 lakh during 2004-05. District-wise estimate of poverty is not available.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission estimate the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line at national and State level from the large sample surveys on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest estimate is available for the years 2004-05. As such, the estimate of number of families risen above the poverty line during the last three years can not be estimated.

Increase in BPL people

†1880. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of people living below poverty line has increased over the years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi